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RASPBERRYADE.

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
The Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong. (10)

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Only communications relating to the news column should be addressed to "The Editor."
Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with their communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
No anonymously signed communications that have appeared in other papers first will be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent to the office of the *Daily Press* on the 1st day of publication.
After that hour the supply is limited.

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The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, JULY 8, 1885.

The Foreign Office has arrived at the conclusion that Her Majesty's Government would have no sufficient ground for raising objection to the provisions of the Russo-Chinese Telegraph Convention. Presumably, Lord Rosebery has had the benefit of the advice of the law officers of the Crown in arriving at this decision, and it would appear to be useless for the foreign communities in China to agitate any further in the matter. Great secrecy has been observed with regard to the text of the Convention, which in fact has never been published in the form finally agreed upon, but it has been generally understood that it was an agreement for keeping up rates. Lord Rosebery, however, says it does not bind the Governments of China or Russia, nor the Cable Companies, who in fact are not parties to it, to maintain the present charges for telegrams between China and Europe; on the contrary, it plainly contemplates the possibility of reduction, and provides that where a reduction takes place in the charge of the Companies' rates, Russia and China are to reduce their terminal rates. This is a very pretty gloss to put on the matter. The agreements entered into by the members of the great American trusts may not preclude the possibility of reduction in their rates, but none the less the fact remains that such agreements are formed for the purpose of keeping up rates. So the primary object of the Telegraph Convention is to keep up rates, and although it may be invulnerable to attack it seems rather out of place to represent it as an agreement formed with a view to the reduction of rates. With regard to the statement that the Cable Companies are not parties to the Convention, although their names may not appear on the face of the document their interests were represented in the negotiations and are supposed to have been tenderly cared for. As a matter of fact, however, the Companies have been rather outwitted by the Chinese, who have got the best of the bargain, and the foreign communities are likely to benefit to a slight extent from the Chinese lines, after all, inasmuch as the composition of the latter will prevent the Cable Companies' piling on additional charges to cover the loss on exchange. Moreover, a uniform rate has been fixed for the whole of China instead of varying rates for different places. Lord Rosebery's dispatch concludes with the statement that there is no obstacle to the rates being reduced if the Companies under pressure of public opinion or for other reasons should consent to a reduction. What the foreign communities complained of with respect to

the Convention was that it was framed with a view to excluding the competition of the Chinese land lines as one of the means of pressure. The Convention has not absolutely succeeded in effecting that object, though it has done so to a great extent. Of course foreigners in China would not wish to see the Cable Companies killed by Chinese competition, and the British Government could not afford to allow the Eastern Extension line to be discontinued; but the rates would stand a good deal of cutting and still leave hand some profits for the shareholders in the concern.

The *China Mail* of last night, referring to our remarks on the desirability of establishing a national currency for China says: "And we presume the inference is that Hongkong should adopt such a coin in place of the Mexican dollar, which has done duty here for so many years." We fail to see what warrant there is for such an inference. Only the previous day we had dwelt on the advisability of introducing a British dollar and pointed out that this Colony could no longer afford to be dependent on a foreign state for its currency. But that has nothing to do with the question of the adoption of a national coinage for China, which no one can fail to recognise as one of the greatest wants of the country. We do not understand that even our contemporary deprecates a national coinage for China, but only the adoption of a Chinese coin as the legal currency in Hongkong, a proposition which so far as we know has never been made.

It is stated that the Siamese Government has been making purchases of rifles in Japan.

The M. M. steamer *Solstic*, with the French mail of 8th June, left Singapore at 6 p.m. yesterday.

The reports of attempts to burn the Roman Catholic convent at Hankow have been contradicted.

Yesterday was the "Glorious Fourth" and the American vessels in harbour were decorated in honour of the occasion.

The Band of the 1st Shropshire Light Infantry will play at the Ladies' Recreation Club to-morrow afternoon. The recent addition to the Pavilion is completed and will be opened to members from this date.

It is reported that the Tung Li Yunnan has approved Sir Robert Hart's postal scheme and that Sir Robert will visit Shanghai soon in connection with the matter; but at Shanghai some doubt seems to be entertained as to the latest report.

His Excellency Herr von Schenk, Baron zu Schenckberg, the new German Minister to China, while at Shanghai, was entertained by H. E. Nieh Taotai at an informal dinner at the Hotel des Colonies. The new Minister left for the 30th ult.

Mr. J. T. Hartman, the Equitable Life Assurance Society's manager, arrived here for the first time on the 25th ult. and is engaged with the Chinese Government in a difficult task of getting a loan of £100,000 to be granted to the Emperor of Germany, for carrying live stock to the colony.

Advices from *Times* to the *N. C. Daily Press* and the *China Mail* of the celebration of the sixtieth birthday of the Emperor of China have notified to the Railway Directors that they will borrow 1,000,000 taels this year and next from the Railway Construction Fund. These sums will be received by grants of three millions (instead of two) in the two following years.

Mr. F. C. Gorder, proprietor of the Beach Hotel, the late Mr. Ottawa, of the I.M. Customs, and a gold watch presented to him by H. E. the Emperor of Germany, for carrying live stock to the colony.

Mr. K. W. Hart, a director of the *China Mail*, has been granted a loan of £100,000 to be granted to the Emperor of China.

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On the morning of the 30th ult. a fire occurred at the Chinese Lithographic Works at Shanghai, in which the premises containing the engines, boilers, and printing machinery were entirely destroyed, but the godowns, in which there was a large quantity of oil, were saved. The damage is estimated at about £15,000, of which about £1,200,000 fall on the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Limited.

A blue jacket belonging to the U. S. Marine named Byrne has lost his life at Hankow under mysterious circumstances and foul play is suspected. He left the hotel on the evening of the 25th ult., to go on board his ship for more money, but instead of this he was taken on a steamer which was only worth £10, according to the market value of ships, and are officially declared to be worth £1,400, and if these figures further, it remains to be seen whether the credit of that Government will be able to maintain their currency of paper, as Indian currency greatly improves, there must be a certain amount of paper to be issued.

Mr. C. H. Simon, United States Consul at Hongkong, has informed the State Department that he believes, as a result of investigations made that from 500 to 1,000 fraudulent notarial certificates have been distributed to individuals in the colony, and that the Chinese Government has taken steps to prevent this.

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